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LOS ANGELES
CIA CONNECTION PROBED IN DE LOREAN CASE
BY MARK BARABAK

A former co-defendant ready to testify against John De Lorean in his trial on cocaine trafficking charges may once have worked for the CIA, an attorney for the automaker said Tuesday.

In a motion filed in federal court Aug. 1, attorneys for De Lorean asked prosecutors to turn over all materials they have on William Morgan Hetrick's involvement with the federal government as either an informant or target in past drug investigations.

In addition, the discovery motion asked prosecutors to "provide the dates, places and purposes of any and all previous employment of Hetrick by the United States government, or any of its agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency." The suit did not elaborate.

However, attorney Donald Re said in an interview "we have information from various sources that he (Hetrick) may have been connected with the CIA on a contract basis."

Acting U.S. Attorney Alexander Williams III declined comment, as did CIA officials in Washington. Hetrick's attorney, Stephen Wilson, said he did not know "the answer to that question, so I can't comment on it."

Re said unnamed sources told defense attorneys Hetrick, who owned an aviation firm in Mojave, Calif., worked for the spy agency as a pilot on a contract basis.

"At this point we've gotten information from several sources," Re said. "We want to either corroborate it or disprove it. We think we're required to follow up that kind of information when it comes into our possession."

He said Hetrick may have been involved in the sting the defense claims entrapped De Lorean, and said attorneys were also seeking evidence of any "pre-targeting" of the automaker involving Hetrick.

Hetrick, 52, identified by prosecutors as one of the West Coast's biggest drug dealers, supplied the cocaine in the transaction that resulted in De Lorean's October 1982 arrest on drug trafficking charges.

Hetrick pleaded guilty June 13 to reduced charges in a deal with government prosecutors that requires his testimony, if requested, against De Lorean. He faces a maximum sentence of 49 years in prison at his sentencing Oct. 31.

In exchange for his testimony and forfeiture of \$3 million in property, the government granted immunity from further prosecution for Hetrick, his two sons and a stepson.

Hetrick remains in custody pending sentencing. De Lorean is free on \$5 million bail.

A second De Lorean co-defendant who served as a courier during the drug transaction, Stephen Arrington, has also pleaded guilty to reduced charges. However, he did not agree to testify against De Lorean.